

Message Text

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ACTION SIG-03

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FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3565

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 08001

FI CHANNEL

FOR THE INSPECTOR GENERAL FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, ASIG
SUBJECT: POST MEMORANDUM FOR THE INSPECTORS: UNITED
STATES MISSION TO NATO

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I. STATE OF RELATIONS

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PRESIDENT CARTER HAS CALLED THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE
THE "HEART" OF US FOREIGN POLICY. THE LONDON AND
WASHINGTON NATO SUMMITS HAVE REINFORCED THE US COMMITMENT
TO NATO AND ALLIED PERCEPTIONS OF THAT COMMITMENT. AS
NATO APPROACHES ITS THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY, IT IS HEALTHY
BUT NEEDS CONSTANT NURTURING. THE US MUST CONTINUE TO
INSPIRE AND DRIVE THE ALLIANCE, BUT WE MUST DO SO IN
SUCH A WAY AS TO RETAIN ITS COHESION AS A MUTUAL
COLLECTIVITY OF SOVEREIGN, DEMOCRATIC NATIONS.

II. ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

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THIS MISSION ADDRESSES ISSUES FORMING THE CORNERSTONE
OF SECURITY AND POLITICAL CONCERNS OF THE US AND ITS
ALLIES. THESE ISSUES HAVE NOT CHANGED SINCE INSPECTORS
WERE HERE IN 1976 AND PRINCIPALLY INCLUDE: EFFECTIVE
ALLIANCE MILITARY CAPABILITY FOR DETERRENCE AND DEFENSE;
AND EFFECTIVE CONSULTATIONS FOSTERING ALLIANCE COHESION,

PARTICULARLY IN THE CONTEXT OF MBFR, SALT AND RELATED ISSUES AND OTHER ASPECTS OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS. THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY CALLS BROADLY ON THE ALLIES TO SAFEGUARD FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, SECURE THE COLLECTIVE DEFENSE, PROMOTE STABILITY AND WELL BEING IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC AREA AND PRESERVE PEACE AND SECURITY. A FORMIDABLE CHALLENGE.

THE WORK OF THIS MISSION IS DIRECTLY AND DAILY INFLUENCED BY THE BROAD CONTEXT IN WHICH INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES ARE PLAYED OUT. AT THE SAME TIME, THE MISSION IS BOUND BY THE DEMANDS OF AN UNRELENTING SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AT ALL LEVELS, ROUTINELY INCLUDING MINISTERIALS SIX TIMES A YEAR. AT EACH OF THE SEVERAL THOUSAND MEETINGS WE ATTEND ANNUALLY, THE MISSION MUST SPEAK FORMALLY FOR THE UNITED STATES, DRAWING ON GUIDANCE THAT IS FREQUENTLY CLEARED AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS IN WASHINGTON. RESULTS ARE OFTEN MEASURABLE ONLY IN THE AGGREGATE. THE MISSION MUST ANTICIPATE, ANALYZE AND SUBMIT FORWARD LOOKING POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS. REPORTING MUST BE RAPID, AND PRECISE.

WASHINGTON BACKSTOPPING CONTINUES TO BE GENERALLY EXCELLENT, IF SOMETIMES AFFECTED BY THE INEVITABLE NEED TO COORDINATE THROUGHOUT THE WASHINGTON COMMUNITY. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT

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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS HAVE TAKEN RECENT ACTION TO ASSURE THAT INSTRUCTIONS TO THIS MISSION CONTINUE TO COME ONLY FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

THE MISSION ITSELF FUNCTIONS AS AN INTEGRATED UNIT WHICH, AS IN THE PAST, COMBINES ELEMENTS OF STATE, DEFENSE, ICA AND GSA. UPON MY ARRIVAL HERE, I WAS STRUCK BY HOW WELL THESE ELEMENTS WORK TOGETHER. THEY CONTINUE TO DO SO. AT THE SAME TIME, WE MAINTAIN CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE FOURTEEN OTHER NATO DELEGATIONS, THE US DELEGATION TO NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE, THE NATO INTERNATIONAL STAFF, US EMBASSIES IN NATO CAPITALS, MILITARY COMMANDS, USEC AND THE US DELEGATIONS TO THE SALT AND MBFR NEGOTIATIONS.

WE DO NOT FACE ANY MAJOR OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTING THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF OUR OBJECTIVES. HOWEVER, WE MUST WORK CONSTANTLY TO AVOID BECOMING BOGGED DOWN IN ACTIVITIES TIED SOLELY TO THE NATO CYCLE OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS. WE NEED TIME TO LOOK AHEAD EVEN MORE THAN WE ARE AT PRESENT ABLE TO DO.

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A FIRST RATE ANALYTICALLY ORIENTED OFFICER ASSIGNED TO THE MISSION IN A CAPACITY WHICH WOULD FREE HIM FROM THE MOST BURDENSOME DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONAL DEMANDS AND PERMIT HIM TO PULL TOGETHER FROM A NATO PERSPECTIVE THE THREADS OF WESTERN SECURITY CONCERNS. I LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING THIS POSSIBILITY WITH THE INSPECTORS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USNATO 08001

FI CHANNEL

FOR THE INSPECTOR GENERAL FROM THE AMBASSADOR

III. EVALUATION OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

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THE US REMAINS THE PRINCIPAL FORCE BEHIND NATO'S MOMENTUM. ALLIED PERCEPTIONS OF US CERTAINTY ENGENDER CERTAINTY IN THE ALLIANCE. ACCORDINGLY, THE PRESIDENT'S LONDON INITIATIVES, BY DEMONSTRATING SOLID US LEADERSHIP, HAVE INCREASED NATO'S ABILITY TO WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP THE PEACE AND NATO'S CONFIDENCE THAT THIS TASK CAN BE ACHIEVED. CONVERSELY, THE NEUTRON WARHEAD ISSUE PROVED DIVISIVE, AS THE ALLIES' PERCEPTION OF THE US ROLE FOSTERED SELF DOUBT AMONG THEM. A SIMILAR POTENTIAL FOR DIVISIVENESS FLOWING FROM SALT AND RELATED ISSUES HAS THUS FAR BEEN KEPT AT TOLERABLE LEVELS THANKS TO OUR EXCELLENT RECORD OF CONSULTATIONS.

THE PAST YEAR HAS DEMONSTRATED NATO'S ABILITY TO RECOGNIZE AND CORRECT WEAKNESS AND THE ALLIES' CONTINUED RECOGNITION THAT A STRONG ALLIANCE IS IN THEIR NATIONAL INTEREST. FEW MULTINATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CAN CLAIM TO BE AS VIGOROUS AS NATO AS THEY ENTER MIDDLE AGE. THE

ARCHITECTS OF THE TREATY HAVE NOT BEEN BETRAYED.

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I LOOK FORWARD TO THIS INSPECTION, CONFIDENT THAT WE
WILL ALL BENEFIT FROM THE OBSERVATIONS YOU WILL BRING
FROM WASHINGTON AND THOSE YOU WILL CARRY AWAY. BENNETT

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